The Republic of Turkey

Special Reference Briefs: SRB 90-01

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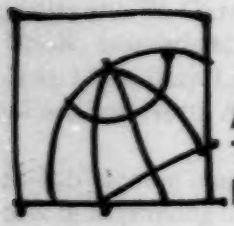
Agricultural Trade and Marketing Information Center



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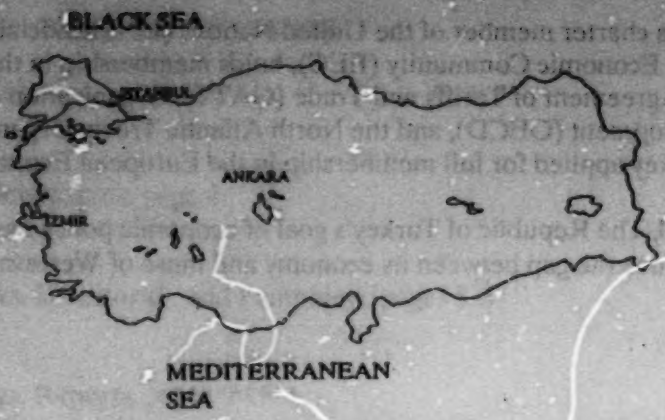
THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY



Turkey is situated on a land area of 770,760 square kilometers, bridges Europe and Asia with 52 million inhabitants, Ankara as capital with over 2.8 million people.

From 1960 to 1970 was the longest sustained period of economic growth and development in present day Turkey. In 1979, the Turkish economy began to falter, thus, in 1980, the Demirel government adopted a determined economic reform program with the intent to curb inflation, currency devaluation, export promotion, and the restructuring of Turkey's noncompetitive state enterprises. As a result of these policies, economic activity increased with exports expanding through 1985. Legislation to encourage foreign investement was made into law in the Spring of 1986, and the country's first two free-trade zones opened in May 1986. However, in late 1986, due to partial collapse of Turkey's Middle East markets, exports did not grow and declined in some measure, nevertheless, by 1987, exports sprang back, but the Middle East markets remained low.

Agriculture is the most important sector of the Turkish economy, although, in 1981, for the first time, the value of industrial exports overtook that of the agricultural exports.

Turkey's agricultural products consist of cotton, tobacco, cereals, sugar beets, fruit, nuts, and wool (animal hair, mohair).

Turkey exports the following agricultural products: Wool, animal hair, cereals, fruits and vegetables, hazelnuts, cotton, tobacco, live animals, and sea products; and imports cereals, rubbers, fertilizers, chemicals, and soybean oil.

Major trading partners for exports are: W. Germany, Iran, Iraq, United Kingdom, USA, Italy, Saudi Arabia, France, USSR, Switzerland, Middle East, and North Africa; for imports: W. Germany, Iran, Iraq, USA, Italy, Libya, Japan, France, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, USSR, Middle East, and North Africa.

The Republic of Turkey is self-sufficient in many agricultural products; however, as a developing nation faces the task of improving its infrastructure.

Turkey is a charter member of the United Nations (UN), associate member of the European Economic Community (EEC), holds membership in the Council of Europe, General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In April 1987, Turkey applied for full membership in the European Economic Community (EEC).

Since 1980, The Republic of Turkey's goal of economic policy has been to expand exports and to reduce the gap between its economy and those of Western Europe.

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Bibliographies of selected material are added so that the reader who wishes can pursue the subject in greater depth.

The inclusion or omission of a particular agency, publication or citation may not be construed as endorsement or disapproval.

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CONTACTS/CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE/TRADE ORGANIZATIONS

Turkey

Agricultural Counselor
American Embassy
APO, New York 09254

or

Agricultural Counselor
110 Ataturk Boulevard
Kavaklidere
Ankara, Turkey

Agricultural Trade Officer
CG-Istanbul
APO, New York 09380-1000

or

Agricultural Trade Officer
104/108 Mesrutiyet CAD
Tepebasi, Istanbul, Turkey

Et ve Balik Kurumu Genel
Mudurlugu
Directorate General of the
Meat and Fish Bureau
Ankara, Turkey

Istanbul Chamber of Commerce
Erminonu
Istanbul, Turkey

Izmir Chamber of Commerce
Izmir, Turkey

Tarim ve Orman Bakanligi
Sebze ve Meyva Ihracati
Gelistirme
Projeleri Genel Mudurlugu
Ministry of Forest and Agriculture
Directorate General of
Vegetable and Fruits Export
Development Projects
Ankara, Turkey

Turkish Industrialists' and
Businessmen's Association (TIBA)
Turk Sanayicileri ve Isadamlari
Derne (TUSIAD)
Cumhuriyet Caddesi 233/9-10
Harbiye, TR-80230
Istanbul, Turkey

Trade Fair

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Cahit Gunay
Kulturpark
Izmir, Turkey

Union of Chambers of Commerce
Industry, Maritime Commerce And
Commodity Exchanges Of Turkey
149 Ataturk Bul
Bakanliklar
Ankara, Turkey

United States

Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
1606 - 23rd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20637
Telephone: (202) 387-3200

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Economic Research Service
U.S. Trade and Agriculture
Africa and the Middle East Specialist
1301 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005-4789
Telephone: (202) 786-1680

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
International Trade Policy
Trade Assistance and Planning Office
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone: (202) 447-8502; (202) 382-9057

U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Agricultural Trade and Development Missions
Near East, South Asia, and Africa Specialist
Room 5098 South Building
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Telephone: (202) 447-7053

U.S. Department of Commerce
Turkey Desk Officer
Room 3042
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
Telephone: (202) 377-3945

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